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VACAVALLEY RADIO CLUB

VACAVILLE , CALFORNIA

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May, 2013

The Feedline

The May Pole is not the same as Pole Dancing!

Hmmm, the weather we're seeing is interesting, isn't it? For late April and into early may, the hot weather is a little on the wacky side of things. I recently attended the IDXC event in Visalia which was my first in attending a DX convention. Both KD6WKY (Jerry Olive) and N6AJR (Tom Lish) also attended the event although they are regular attendees. Aside from the numerous raffle drawings, Dr. Jonathan Taylor, K1JT was the guest speaker at the Saturday night dinner banquet. His slide show contained the Arecibo radio telescope antenna built in the Puerto Rico jungle (ARRL QST August 2010 - page 62) in which the receiving dish was not of the solid mass like many dish receivers, but was porous in such a way as to allow sunlight & rain through it to keep the grassland and other vegetation underneath the porous dish alive. Amongst the things like listening for those unknown aliens, he and his staff did a couple of EME's, but in doing the EME, a way to connect from the massive coax cable to the tiny Kenwood HF rig was interesting in that an adapter was constructed to allow a short section of LMR-600 and a PL-259 to connect to the insanely massive coax down to a simple coax feedline nearly every operator uses. An interesting guest and slide show!!

There were many seminars and I attended a couple. One dealt with the new upcoming SDR although the speaker was somehow a mouthpiece (in my opinion) for Flex Radio rather than talking about and explaining the different characteristics of other SDR programs rather than just

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Meeting Notes from Thursday, 11 April, 2Ø13

Club President Marcus Maclean (KI6WDX), called the second meeting at our new (temp.) location at the Elmira Fire House, to order at 19:Ø5 hr.. Due to the limited number of members in attendance, Marcus opted to keep the meeting in a somewhat abbreviated format.

We were joined for the evening by two visitors: Tom Carman – KK6BEI, and Brian Hagen KK6BXP – both from Fairfield.

The Secretary's minutes from the March meeting were accepted as published in the newsletter.

The Treasurers report was presented by the President because the Treasurer was absent.

Listed were: End Bal.: $2,858.14; Gen. Fund: 2,Ø18.14; Repeater Fund: 834.ØØ ; The Prize fund, ARRL, and Project funds all have no amounts allocated.

The Treasurer's report was accepted as submitted.

A board nomination was proposed and accepted, to appoint Skip – AF6HC – to finish out the term of Secretary that was vacated by Jerry Olive – KD6WKY – when he stepped down this past Winter

Our weekly Net Supervisor, Chris – KD7TQO – announced that he really needs a volunteer to fill the once-a-month Net Control Position vacated by Jerry Olive – KD6WKY. Richard Craig – KJ6MIB - agreed to take the position for the second Tuesday of each month. Thanks Richard! Don't worry – I know that you'll do a great job!

Any in-depth discussion regarding "Field Day – 2Ø13", was tabled until the May meeting, and each of the members present were asked to return in May with some concrete usable, and researched suggestions. Although a couple of great mountain top locations were suggested, they were rejected because there is just no easy access, and no public access – thus no club exposure.

Folks – we're running out of air-speed and altitude all at the same time here, so the bottom line question is this: do YOU want to participate in Field Day or not? If yes – please show up with researched, viable, and approved ideas and

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"centering" on the Flex Radio SDR software. Another seminar dealt with how to get the most out of DX contesting from a small city lot like the home you have. The AARL had a brief seminar regarding how an electronic device or radio is lab tested. An 8 year old newly minted ham (a young boy) won himself a brand new dual band transceiver for being the youngest attendee and a great many others won brand new Yaesu & Kenwood HF rigs and dual band radios. Both the event and the food that came with the ticket purchase were great! I'd go next year if possible providing that the event is held again at the Visalia Convention Center!!

I'd like to extend an invitation to all club members to attend the May 9th regularly scheduled club meeting out at the Elmira fire house located in beautiful downtown Elmira at 6080 "A" Street starting with the board meeting at 7:00 pm. Please plan on attending as there will be mucho information dispensed about the annual ARRL Field Day amongst everything, OK?

Well, that's about all for the moment. Until next month, be safe, be well and G.O.T.A.!

1917- World War I had put a stop to amateur radio. In the United States, Congress ordered all amateur radio operators to cease operation and even dismantle their equipment

VACA VALLEY RADIO CLUB--2013

ELECTED OFFICERS

President: Marcus K. Maclean, KI6WDX
Vice President: Chris Jones, KD7TQO
Secretary: Skip Lawson, AF6HC
Treasurer: Bob Hewitt, K6HEW

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Director: Skip Lawson, AF6HC
Director: Antonio Del Rio, N6GZB
Director: Arthur Miller, KI6UXE
Director: Richard Craig, KJ6MIB

APPOINTED POSITIONS

Net Control Chairperson: Chris Jones, KD7TQO
Club Activities Chairperson: Board of Directors
Newsletter Editor: Jerry Bowen, KJ6SCC
Newsletter Publisher & Distributor: Bob Hewitt, K6HEW

places (permission from land owners, etc.) – we don't have any more time to "*maybe here*", or "*maybe there*". If we're going to do this, we need COMMITMENT from all concerned – and that also includes coordinating the logistics for the exercise – we need radios, generators, extension cords, antennas and antenna poles, a COMPUTER for logging, lighting for night-ops…. all the things that it takes to actually put a station on the air. Since there aren't that many members participating right now, this is NOT going to work if you think that you're just going to show up at a site already set up with someone else's gear… So, if we can't put this together at the May meeting, it's probably not going to happen.

Once again the subject of what kind of training, or events do we as a club, want to participate in. OK – that really should come from the club members themselves deciding what they want to pursue as a club, and not left to a board of a half-dozen people to design programs for thirty-something members. There way are too many people with too many ideas to make everybody happy. Remember: this is YOUR club…

Do you have an idea that YOU'd like to pursue? Great! Show up with the idea and as a group we can flesh-it-out. Do you want to go visit someplace fun – ie: a Navy ship or sub com.room? Bring a well thought-out, researched, workable plan and we can make it happen!

Our VVRC Repeater Chief – Skipp Mays – WV6F – has made a *VERY generous offer* to the members of the VVRC… He has offered to bring his test equipment to the May meeting and test your HT, or ?? to see if it's operating within the tolerances that it should. You will need to bring your radio AND the manual (which contains the values and specs).

It was brought up that there are a lot of members who, after testing for their first license, express a desire to become involved in Emergency Services Communications. So… are there members out there involved in the ACS, Red Cross, Salvation Army, or ?? who can help line-up a speaker from that group who can outline what else is required in the way of training and certification before the new person can become a usable asset to the emergency group?

Marcus briefed the members present that the Fire Chief at the Vine St. station is putting together a staff of qualified engineers, soil engineers, so that they can re-place the old wood piers with concrete pier footings, and once they get

1912 – Amateur Radio licensing began under the Radio Act of 1912. Radio was regulated by the Department of Commerce. Irving Vermilya, 1ZE was granted "Skill Certificate # 1", making him the first U.S. licensed Amateur Radio Operator Club.

things moving, they're expecting to have the project completed by this Fall. However, in the meantime, the Elmira station isn't a bad place either – come and join us!

After the business was finished, we watched one of the ARRL training videos where Frank Rutter – K3AW, makes all kinds of different antennas - *in scaled miniature* - from paper clips and then demonstrates the electrical radiating characteristics of each kind of antennas. Although it runs a bit on the long side, it's one of those presentations that you can't help but learn something new every time you watch it!

After the video the meeting was adjourned… Hope to see all of you at the May meeting – 19:ØØ hr, May 9, at the Elmira Fire station..

Respectfully submitted,
Skip Lawson – AF6HC

2013 International DX Convention in Visalia

Several current members and a former member who's name we will not mention here from the Vaca Valley Radio Club attended the 2013 International DX Convention in Visalia in April. The 64th convention in Visalia was for the first time moved to the Visalia Civic Center after many years at the old Holiday Inn over by the airport.

The convention was attended by radio amateurs from around the world with one member coming as far away as Outer Slavovia which is near the upper regional mountains between Greece and Turkey. His English was very good.

The keynote speaker was Joe Taylor, Ph. D. who invented JT65 for the digital amateur radio community. Professionally Dr. Taylor is a Physicist at Princeton University and the 1993 Nobel Prize winner in Science for his discovery and research of the fist known Neutron Pulsar. His program was fascinating.

A record attendance of over 875 attendees and a record number of vendors made for a terrific weekend convention.

THE VVRC WELCOMES YOU

The Vaca Valley Radio Club has proudly served the Northern Solano County Area since 1988. We pride ourselves in providing a friendly place for radio amateurs to meet and improve their operating skills.

We participate in public service events throughout the year and are always ready to assist with communications during times of emergency.

Browsw our website for more information about our club. If you have any questions please e-mail us at w6vvr@w6vvr.net or call 707-448-5665 for assistance

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Wheelchair accessible

A Simple Faraday Shield

By Jerry Bowen KJ6SCC

In the last issue I discussed the possibilities that an electromagnetic pulse (EMP) striking somewhere on the planet for various reasons and possibly disabling the power grid and or any electronic equipment containing transistors and chips.

A way of protecting the affected equipment was passed along to me by Skip Lawson, AF6HC that is simple and easy to build using of all things, a trash can!

It involves protecting the equipment to be placed in the can to be insulated from the metal itself. I would also add that additional protection could be use would to place each unit in one of those bags that you remove the air from and seal up.

The only thing that is not certain is whether to ground the can or not. There are several opinions on various web sites on both sides of the argument.

Some suggestions of items to place in this can could be, hard drives, transceivers, small computer, emergency radios and whatever you like.

You can find the web site describing the construction of the Faraday shield at:

Video: www.youtube.com/watch?v=EoQZY1ftI3c

Article about EMP; www.futurescience.com/emp.html

Then mark the can well so the wife won't empty the trash..... Oh yeah..... that's my job!

1884

Edison Patents "The Edison Effect", his only discovery in pure science - Electrons flow from a heated filament to a cold plate through a vacuum. Edison patented the idea but wrongly dismissed it as just a scientific curiosity with no practical use This phenomenon was actually discovered by British physicist Frederick Guthrie in 1873 and "rediscovered" by Edison in 1880

Visit the Repeater online courtesy of Bob K6HEW at: vacavalleyradio.net

Club repeater in Vacaville:W6VVR 145.470 MHz(-) pl 127.3 The W6VVR net call is Tuesday evenings at 8pm on the club repeater. All are invited to participate in this weekly meeting on the air. 73!

Additional local repeaters
WV6F 224.200(-)
WV6F 440.025(+)
WV6F 1291.900(-)

Early Ham Assisted Admiral Byrd's First Antarctic Expedition in 1929-30

Jerry Bowen KJ6SCC

You never know when a good story about Ham Radio will pop up during conversations with other folks.

Our computer and photography guru at the Vacaville Heritage Council, Brian Irwin's, father dropped in a couple of weeks ago and we somehow got on the subject of ham radio. He made a casual remark that Brian's great grandfather was a very early ham operator.

With that start here's what we learned about Arthur L. Munzig, 6BV; NU6BY ; W6BY after a little research.

Arthur was one of the first licensed radio amateurs in California, and received the call letters 6BV in 1912, at age 14. During World War I he was a radioman in the Navy, and served on the USS RINGGOLD, DD-89, a four-stack destroyer. The USS RINGGOLD was built at Bath Iron Works in San Francisco and outfitted and placed into commission on November 14, 1918. (The RINGGOLD was one of the 50 destroyers transferred to England in a lend-lease deal just before the U.S. entered World War II.)

After World War-I was over, Arthur returned to his parent's house in Redlands and again became active in amateur radio. He received new call letters NU6BY, and later changed to W6BY. He started a small business in his father's barn, where he developed and sold radio receivers for use by amateur radio operators. He was self-employed during most of his life, except when he taught a course in Radio and Electronics at Redlands High School, and later worked as a radio engineer for Consolidated-Vultee in San Diego, and Northrop Aviation in Hawthorne. Along the way he also wrote a technical book on antennas for amateurs, called *"R9 Sigs, Angle Radiation"* about antennas and occasionally articles for Science and Mechanics Magazine.

Towards the end of World War-I he caught influenza that caused severe damage to his heart. Later Arthur suffered his first heart attack. While recovering he enjoyed working his short wave radios under the call sign of W6BY. He conversed with people around the world.

Arthur's wife, Johanna Dahl Munzig, used to complain he spent too much time in his shop or radio "shack."

One Sunday in 1930 Johanna had planned that the family would take a drive. But he said he was going to be busy in, his radio shack all weekend because of an international ham radio contest that was taking place that weekend. Johanna, who was quite an individual herself, decided to teach him a lesson. First, she gathered all four children, put them in the car. Then she got a ladder and a pair of pliers and climbed up the side of his radio shack, cut his antenna wires, climbed quickly down the ladder, ran to the car, and drove across town to her mother's house. Apparently, there was never any long lasting animosity created over that incident, but it does give an insight into his wife's character.

While living in Redlands, he was the main West Coast radio contact for Admiral Byrd's Second Antarctic Expedition in 1929-30. He had a schedule to contact Little America every day, and relayed messages to Washington D.C. as well as to and from members of the expedition's families in the U.S.

In the late 1930's the family moved to San Diego at the Navy's request. The Navy was outfitting a fleet and needed qualified radio personnel to man it. Arthur was assigned the task of training the new radio operators.

Because of his assistance in the second expedition, he was asked to join the Third Antarctic Expedition scheduled for 1940-41. He declined, but volunteered his son Arthur, Jr's services, who was also was a ham radio operator and technician, and in much better health than his father was. It wasn't until the expedition had arrived at the Bay of Whales in Antarctica, and set up their first camp, West Base, that they were advised that they needed him as an assistant operator to Elmer Laughlin, Chief Radio Operator at East Base. But that is another story loaded with exciting adventures of Arthur Munzig Jr. at the South Pole.

After a long and notable career as a "Ham Operator," Arthur L. Munzig died in 1966 at the age of 88.

NET CONTROL OPERATORS

1st week of month-Jerry Bowen; KJ6SCC
2nd week of month-Jerry Olive until June 11
Will need new volunteer after June 11
3rd week of month-Chris Jones; KD7TQO
4th week of month-Marcus MacLean; KI6WDX
On months with 5 weeks-Bob Hewitt; K6HEW

1904-John Ambrose Fleming Introduces the "Thermionic Valve" – the first vacuum tube

UK Ham Locates 1965 Sattelite As It Returns To Life

An American satellite, abandoned in 1967 as a piece of space junk has begun transmitting again after 46 years and a ham radio operator is responsible for finding it.

Phil Williams, G3YPQ, is an Amateur Radio Astronomer in North Cornwall in the U.K.. According to reports he accidentally picked up the signal and after cross checking with various lists, he identified it as LES 1.

LES 1 was built by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and launched in 1965. The satellite failed to reach its intended orbit owing to a wiring error and has been drifting out of control ever since.

Williams ran across it while monitoring near 237 MHz when he noticed a signal with a peculiar signal drift caused by the bird tumbling end over end every 4 seconds as the solar panels became shadowed by the satellites engine. Williams said that gives the signal a particularly ghostly sound as the voltage from the solar panels fluctuates.

The LES 1 satellite is about the size of a small car and is not likely to re-enter the atmosphere for a long time as the orbit is still relatively high. It poses no threat other than that caused by the thousands of other pieces of space junk currently in orbit. By now its likely that the on board batteries have now disintegrated so its likely that some other component failure has caused the transmitter to start up when its in sunlight bringing the ghost satellite back to life.

G3YPQ says its remarkable to think that electronics built nearly 5 decades ago, 12 years before Voyager 1, and long before microprocessors and integrated circuits, is still capable of working in the hostile environs of space. He adds that listening to the signal one can easily imagine the craft tumbling over and over every 4 seconds and the transmitter starting up as the sun rises on its solar panels. Amateur Radio Newsline, Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, in Los Angeles.

Knobs, pushbuttons, switches, and Pushbuttons

Jerry Bowen; KG6SCC

I received my brand spanking new FT 897 Yeasu transceiver and was a bit shocked at how small it was and the number of knobs and functions it had. Well, it shouldn't be too bad. There were only about 25 of them; but the controls were so small!

Sooo....I decided to hook up the antenna and see what this little machine could do. After finally locating the main power switch I turned it on. I finally hit the right button and the rig mushroomed to life.

Well, it didn't take long before I realized I had to read the book after all. I thought, "Oh well, 25 different controls can't be too bad to learn."

I quickly found those 25 knobs and buttons control 91 different functions, and I was unfamiliar with many of them.

I looked at my vintage transceivers, and I realized this ain't gonna be an easy one day learning curve.

So I lit off my 1960s NCX-3. It dates back almost to the time I held my first ham license in 1953. I turned it on, waited for about a half hour for it to stabilize and listened to the sweet music of QRM and good signals. It didn't take long to make a couple of out of state QSO's and it felt good to be back on the air after 60 years.

As for the new Yeasu, I made an extra large copy of the front panel, laminated it and hung it over my tiny new rig. I also made up a laminated chart of the functions of each control and hung it next to the faceplate picture. Then I copied the appropriate pages that explain all those 91 functions and what to do, put them into a 3-ring binder and put it next to the rig..

Now all I have to do is study the manual overall and attempt to understand it.

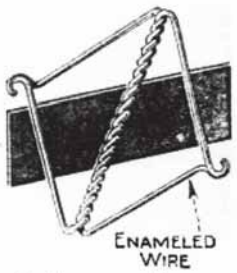
One last thing; thank goodness for the VacaValley Radio club. Some of the members have taken the trouble to explain to me a lot about the operation of modern rigs and what a lot of the abbreviations mean.

I'm on my way to being an xpurt and it should only take a couple of more years to get back to some level of competence. It's tough being an old recycled reprobate!

A novel way to make a capacitor in 1923. From the November 1923 issue of Populer Science, page 115

Small Radio Condensers Made from Enameled Wire

WITH nothing more than two enameled wires, a fixed condenser for radio receiving of practically any ordinarily required capacity can be made within two or three minutes' time. The wire can be any gage from 14 to 24. Two short lengths are twisted together and connected as illustrated. How much wire to be used can be found quickly by trial.



A cheap condenser

The enameled insulation has a high dielectric strength and consequently a condenser of high capacity is formed by twisting the wires in this way. Two lengths 6 in. long are sufficient for making a fixed condenser that is generally useful in the average experimental radio set.

SACRAMENTO HAMFEST

MAY 19TH 2013 | 7AM - NOON

ARRL Sanctioned event - Natomas High School - Truxel off I 80

North Hills Radio Club - K6IS talk-in 145.190 - PL162.2

Hourly drawings • Main drawing at 11 • Free Parking • Food & Drink

Sellers: 2 car spaces $20 • information on: www.k6is.org

SACRAMENTO HAMFEST

PRIZES:

1. WOUXUN 2M/220 HANDHELD
2. 2METER / 220 / 440 MOBILE MAG-MOUNT ANTENNA
3. 12VDC POWER SUPPLY
4. ARRL HANDBOOK
5. ARRL ANTENNA BOOK

1912 – Amateur Radio licensing begins under the Radio Act of 1912. Radio is regulated by the Department of Commerce. Irving Vermilya, 1ZE is granted "Skill Certificate # 1", making him the first U.S. licensed Amateur Radio Operator Club, the Junior Wireless Club is formed (later renamed the Radio Club of America

Free Antenna Towers

Only requirement is you take it down. Three so far in Dixon. Discussion to be held at the May 9 meeting at the Elmira Fire Station.

Probably be best to form working partys with members who have the equipment needed to take the towers down safely

Possibility more neighbrs will want their towers down when they see the activity.

Jerry, KJ6SCC

1899 Marconi sent a wireless message across the English Channel

PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

VACAVALLEY RADIO CLUB, INC.

Please Print & Fill in Completely

Dues are delinquent January 1st

Name: _____ Call Sign_____

Street: _____

City: _____Zip: _____

Phone: (_____) _____-_____OK to Publish ?(_____)

License Class: _____ ARRL Member ?(_____)

E-Mail Address_____

FAMILY Member (Spouse or Children)

Name: _____ Call Sign_____
License Class: _____ARRL Member ?(_____)

Name: _____ Call Sign_____
License Class: _____ARRL Member ?(_____)

Name: _____ Call Sign_____
License Class: _____ARRL Member ?(_____)

MEMBER Dues ____$20.00 _____
Each Family Member __ __ $ 2.00 _____
Student ____$ 5.00 _____
Repeater/Autopatch donation __ __ _____
Call/Name badge ____$11.00 _____

Optional ARRL membership
ARRL dues ____$37.00

Total_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _$_____

Paid by CASH: __ __ __ __ Check # _____

DATE: _____ _____

_____

Mail to : Vaca Valley Radio Club, PO Box 143, Elmira, CA 95625-0143